

# Secrets of The Shining

## Or How Faking the Moon Landings Nearly Cost Stanley Kubrick his Marriage and his Life

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from [JayWeidner Website](#)

*The Shining* is surely [Stanley Kubrick](#)'s most misunderstood masterpiece.

I use the word 'masterpiece' guardedly because I have never really thought that *The Shining* was a very good film.

At the time, in 1980 when I first saw it, I didn't like it at all. The way that Kubrick threw out so much of Stephen King's great source material and replaced it with a lot of things that just didn't seem to make any sense, really bothered me.

Hopefully, before I am finished with this essay, the reader will see it is only when Kubrick dramatically alters the script from Stephen King's novel that we can begin to understand what Stanley Kubrick is trying to tell us in his version of *The Shining*.

It should be understood from the beginning that *The Shining* is Stanley Kubrick's most personal film (outside of, possibly, *Eyes Wide Shut*). Before we are done here it will be easy to see that Kubrick was only using Stephen King's novel as a launching pad (excuse the pun) to be able to tell a completely different story *under the guise of making a film* based on a best-selling novel.

He did this for a very important reason - mainly to save his life. Let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

In fact, let's start at the beginning.

There are two main characters in the film, [Jack Torrance](#) (played by Jack Nicholson) and his son [Danny](#) (played by Danny Lloyd).

It is important to understand here that Jack and Danny are two aspects of Stanley Kubrick himself. Jack is the practical, pragmatic guy who wants to be a great artist. And he is, apparently, willing to do anything to accomplish his goal of being an artist (writer). Jack, like Stanley has black hair, he is idiosyncratic and even smokes the same cigarettes as Stanley (Marlboro).

Danny is the other side of the great director. He is the child-like Kubrick. It is Danny who is actually the real artist.

The Danny side of Kubrick side is psychic, youthful and sees things that no one else sees. Danny also has a tendency to tell people things that should be kept quiet.

The first part of the *The Shining* is probably the longest, most boring, 58 minutes in Kubrick's career. The opening of the film takes place with us witnessing Stanley's pragmatic side, Jack, cutting a deal with *the Manager of the Overlook Hotel*.

The deal between Jack and the Manager of the Overlook is that Jack can write (that is - create) all that he wants as long as he "takes care" of The Overlook.



One other important point is that the Manager of The Overlook tells Jack that the previous caretaker went crazy from the stress of the job and killed his wife and two girls.

Jack says he is "intrigued" but takes the deal anyway.

The Manager of the Overlook Hotel is wearing red, white and blue. Jack's wife Wendy (played by Shelly Duval) and his son Danny also wear red, white and blue for almost the entire first hour of the film.

In this symbolic interpretation the Overlook Hotel is [AMERICA](#). It was built, just like the Manager says, on the graves of Indians. Even when walking on the floor of the Overlook Hotel, one finds oneself trampling over various *Native American symbols*.

The Overlook Hotel itself is America. Like America, the Overlook Hotel is new and shiny. It is ostentatious, corny and architecturally boring.

As the Manager tells Wendy,

"All of the best people stayed here".

But there is something very deep happening. Kubrick brushed shoulders with [the elite](#) of the world. He knows what is going on.

We have to begin to understand Kubrick's story from his use of symbols. As I like to say: if a picture is worth a thousand words, then a symbol is worth a thousand pictures. For it will be through the use of symbol that the real story of *The Shining* can be revealed.

The Manager of the Overlook, while interviewing Jack, has an American Eagle right behind his head.

It is as if "The Eagle" is the power behind the Manager.



Not only is the *Eagle* the symbol of America but it should be noted that the *Lunar Lander* of the *Apollo 11* mission was called "*The Eagle*".

To the Manager's right on the desk is an American flag.

Symbolically the Manager (played by Barry Nelson) is the face of the government of the United States. Jack has cut this deal with the government to be the "caretaker" of the Hotel.

The Manager tells Jack that his main job is to prevent the Overlook Hotel (America) from appearing like it is decaying. The Manager reiterates that this is Jack's primary responsibility.

On their first day in the Hotel, Danny has a vision of the previous caretaker's daughters, and he sees that they are twins. The previous caretaker's daughters were not twins in the Stephen King novel. This discrepancy between the book and the film will grow in importance as we continue.

Jack, Danny and Wendy also meet Dick Halorann who is the cook for the Overlook. He befriends Danny and it is through him that Danny discovers that he is not alone when it comes to psychic ability.

Dick warns Danny to stay away from Room 237.

Jack, Wendy and Danny have now fully moved into the Hotel. There is a long cold winter ahead of them. At first Jack loves the hotel but he is having problems with his writing. Also he cannot sleep. Meanwhile Wendy and Danny are having fun. Jack is not writing. Instead he is throwing a tennis ball at the wall in the room where his typewriter sits.

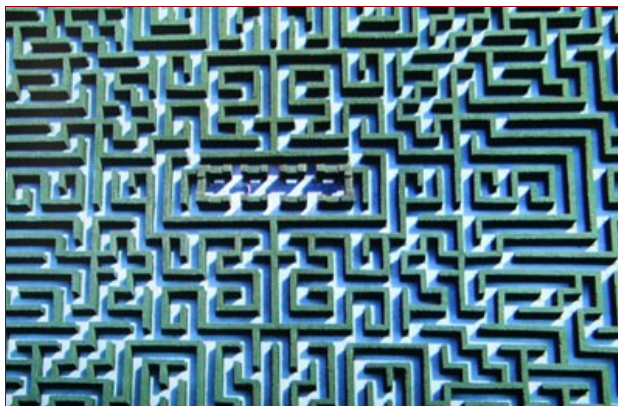
On the wall, which is being struck by the tennis ball, is a Native American artistic motif that looks suspiciously like a group of rockets about to be launched.



Jack throwing the ball at the rocket/arrows on the wall.  
Apollo was the god of Archery. Jack is playing ball with Apollo's arrows

Finally the ball bounces away from Jack and disappears into the darkness of the hotel.

Jack walks over and looks down at the model of the maze. He sees Wendy and Danny caught in the middle of the maze, totally unaware of the nature of the deal that he has cut with the Overlook.



A cold winter storm has now blown over the Hotel.

The oncoming storm is a symbol of the Cold War between Russia and the United States. Of course the Cold War is also one of the driving forces for the entire reason for faking the moon landings. It was necessary to hide the advanced U.S. saucer technology from the Soviet Union.

We were living in a very dangerous world and it was shrewd to hide our advanced technology from the Russians. This is the reason for the bears that are seen all over *The Shining*.

The Russian Bear, and its competition for the race to the Moon, was a driving force behind having to fake [the Apollo Moon landings](#).



Jack, his family, and the Overlook Hotel, are trapped in the Cold, just as America was trapped in the Cold War with Russia.

The stuffed bears, seen through out the film, are the Soviet Empire's symbol.

Symbolically the Bears seen through the film are also the representation of the pressure that the Russians put on the USA to get to the Moon. They had to *fake the moon landings* and cover up the real truth behind the flying saucer craft and machinery that the US government actually has created and employed since World War Two.

Danny is riding his bike through the halls of The Overlook when he comes upon the twin daughters of the previous caretaker.

They stare at Danny and together they say:

"Come play with us Danny. Forever and ever."

Danny turns and wheels it out of there.

At this point in the film we graphically discover the nature of the deal that Jack really cut with the Manager of the Overlook:

It is the most crucial scene in the film. Danny is in a hallway playing with his trucks. Suddenly, out of nowhere, The Project, the Overlook Hotel, rolls the tennis ball, from nowhere, at him.

It is a gesture that says:

"Wanna play?"

It is here that we discover what happened to Jack's tennis ball that was previously swallowed up by the darkness of the Overlook.

We also discover what game it is that the twin daughters of the previous caretaker were inviting Danny to play.



Mystified by where the ball came from, Danny stands up, and the audience finally sees what the nature of the Project really is about:

As Danny stands up, the answer is revealed in an instant. Danny is wearing a sweater with a crudely sewn rocket pictured on the front. On the rocket clearly seen on Danny's sweater are the words: APOLLO 11.



The audience watching the film *literally sees the launch of Apollo 11*, right before their eyes, as Danny rises from the floor. It isn't the real launch of Apollo 11, it is, of course, the symbolic launching of Apollo 11. In other words - it isn't real.

What happens next is crucial to understanding everything else that happens in the film.



Danny, bewildered, walks down the hallway. He sees that Room 237 - the room that Halorann warned him about - has a key in the lock and the door is wide open.



It is important to note that the room in question was numbered 217 in the *Stephen King* version of *The Shining*. For unknown reason's Kubrick changed it to 237.

Those unknown reasons are about to be come known.

Danny is literally carrying a symbolic Apollo 11, on his body, via the sweater, to the Moon as he walks over to room 237.

Why do I think this? Because *the average distance from the Earth to the Moon is 237,000 miles*.

The real truth is that this movie is really about the deal that **Stanley Kubrick** made with the Manager of the Overlook Hotel (America). This deal was to get Kubrick to re-create, in other words, *to fake, the Apollo 11 Moon landing*.

Danny represents the artistic side of Kubrick. Because of the complexity of the artistic realization of the manner in which the lunar landings needed to appear, Kubrick needed to trust his artistic side.

*Room 237 represents the fake lunar set* that Stanley had to create to make the lunar landings appear factual. But really, on this set, and in this room, nothing is real.

As the film will soon reveal, Room 237 has to be lied about. It cannot be understood at all... ever. *Nothing real ever happens in room 237*. For a moment, in the film, it looks like Danny is actually going to enter Room 237. But we are never sure.

In the next scene Jack has a bad dream while he is working. He tells Wendy that in his dream he has killed Wendy and Danny. Meanwhile Danny enters the scene and it is obvious that some mysterious force has physically hurt Danny.

This mysterious force has also torn his Apollo 11 sweater.



Wendy, horrified, thinks that Jack did it.

In a way she is right because Danny got hurt because of the deal that Jack cut.

Frustrated, Jack goes to the bar located in the Gold Room. Obviously stressed, Jack whispers to no one that he would sell his soul for a drink. It is then that Jack meets the real manager of the Overlook Hotel. A mysterious man suddenly appears behind the bar.

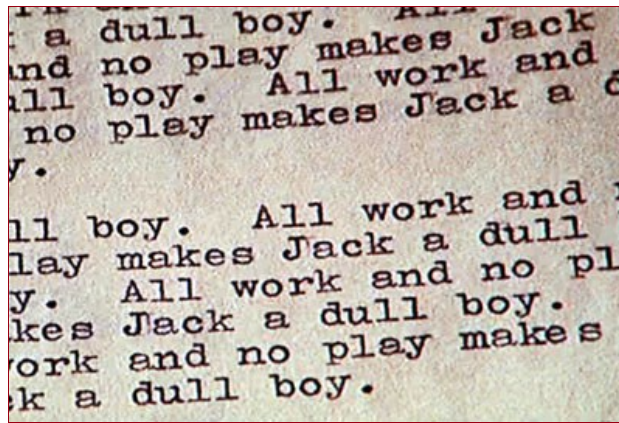
His name is Lloyd and he is the bartender of the Overlook Hotel.



Clearly Stanley Kubrick shows Lloyd *in a Satanic light*.

Lloyd seduces Jack with a drink. Jack has sold his soul to the Project, to being the caretaker of the Overlook. Jack and Lloyd's conversation is interrupted by Wendy's entrance. Lloyd and Jack's glass of Scotch suddenly disappear. Wendy tells Jack that someone else is in the hotel.

Truly it is scary enough to think that Jack has just been sitting there, day after day, writing the same sentence, over and over. Wendy face reveals her fear over the discovery.



What does it all mean?

May I *humbly* suggest that the word "All" in this repeated sentence actually stands for "A11" that is: "A-One-One", or Apollo 11?

"A11 work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

May I suggest that the nickname, or the *code name*, for the *faking of the Apollo Moon Missions* was A11?

Accepting that this is true we can see what Stanley is really telling us:

"Apollo 11 work and no play makes Jack (Kubrick) a dull boy."

If you think that I am stretching things here I would like to point out the patch that NASA had created to symbolize the Apollo program:



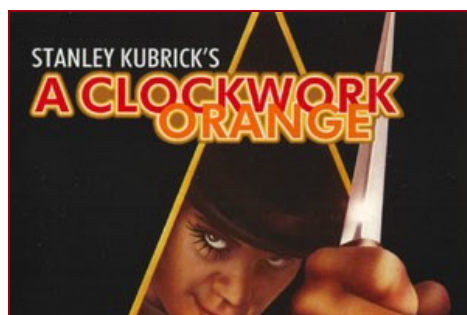
There are other 'A's' in the film also.

The Overlook Hotel has several A's' built into its construction when viewed from the outside:



Stanley has used these A's before also.

Here is the cover of *A Clockwork Orange* with Alex menacingly coming out of the 'A' with his all-seeing-eye cufflink:







It is clear from the evidence presented in the film that Kubrick's wife (Shelly Duval) had discovered that he (Stanley Kubrick) had made a secret deal with the Manager of the Overlook, (i.e.) with *the rulers of the USA*.

Shelly Duval (Christina Kubrick) also discovered that what she thought was one thing actually turned out to be another. What Mrs. Kubrick discovered was that - instead of making a science fiction film called *2001: A Space Odyssey* - her husband was really working to create the fake Apollo moon landings.

At this point the film finally gets really interesting. Frightened by this revelation Wendy (Stanley's wife) wants Jack (Stanley) to quit *the Project*.

Jack (Stanley) angrily replies:

"That is so typical of you! ... I've made an agreement ... I have obligations to my employers!"

Danny uses *The Shining* to contact Dick Halorann in Florida (which I might add is where Apollo 11 was launched). Dick laboriously travels from Florida to Colorado.

In another abrupt break with the novel, Jack Torrance kills Halorann as soon as he arrives at the Overlook (so much for Halorann's psychic abilities!)

While I think this scene is very disturbing and I doubt if I can ever prove this but I think **Stanley Kubrick** is *telling us something very definite with this alteration to the King novel*.

I believe that the naïve side of him, represented by Danny, told someone that he, Kubrick, was faking the Apollo missions.

He may even have told this person that he was *faking the lunar landings for NASA* while also appearing to produce [the film 2001: A Space Odyssey](#). Hallorin is the representation of the person that Kubrick mistakenly revealed this most secret of all information. Because of that, Hallorin, or the person who Stanley told, had to die.

The secret must remain safe.

This also explains why Kubrick had to hide all of this crucial information inside the construct of the King novel. Kubrick wanted the story to get out, but he was also afraid for his life. Kubrick had to fake the making of the Stephen King novel so that he could reveal that he was involved in the faking the moon landings!

The truth is that The Shining is the story of how Stanley Kubrick cut a deal with the U.S. Government to fake the Apollo moon landings.

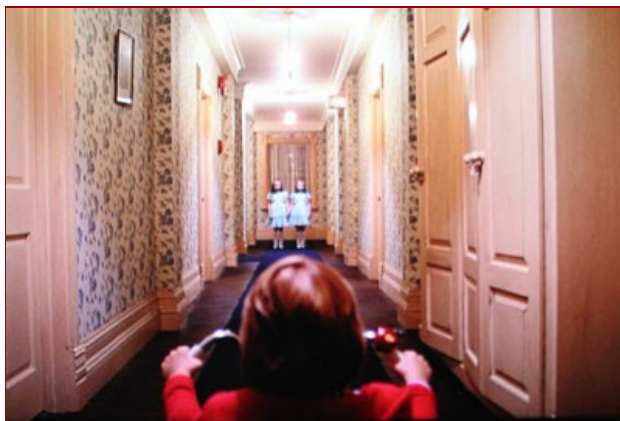
It is also the story of how Kubrick may have accidentally told someone what he had done and how that person had to be killed. *The Shining* is also the story of how faking the Apollo moon landings almost sacrificed his relationship with his wife.

Finally it is the story of how Stanley Kubrick barely escaped alive to create another day.

*The Shining* is the story of how a part of Stanley Kubrick was killed by the agreement that he made with the U. S. government to become the "caretaker" of *The Project called A11 or Apollo 11*.

It is also the story of the history of **NASA**.

This explains why the previous "caretaker" was so pressured and stressed that he had to kill his TWIN daughters.



Why?

Because the previous NASA missions before Apollo were named *Gemini*!

There is much more in this film than can be discussed here. I am sure that much more will be discovered.

I present this tidbit of an interpretation to show not only that Stanley Kubrick directed the Apollo moon landings but also to ask NASA to release all of Kubrick's Apollo moon landing footage in their original, glorious 70 mm film.

It is time to shed the lies. But also it is time for the world to view, uncensored, Stanley Kubrick's greatest unknown masterpiece. I ask NASA to release all of the footage directed by Kubrick for *the faked Apollo landings*.

May I also suggest that **NASA** use the millions of dollars made from this surely successful movie release to fund another mission to the moon?

I mean it has only been 35 years!

Also - may I suggest a title for this new Kubrick film?



The books in Jack's apartment reflect the dual nature of Stanley Kubrick.  
The book on top is entitled "The Wise Child" represented in the film by Danny  
and the book below is entitled "The Manipulator" which is represented by Jack.



Seven Apollo missions went to the moon, but only six landed.  
Six crates of 7-up.

Thanks to **Shawn Montgomery** for igniting my interest in "The Shining" through his great research.

**Return to Astronauts and Apollo's Missions**